Message Text

PAGE 01 PHNOM 08008 041051Z

10-S

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 /026 W

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O 041005Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2416

INFO CINCPAC CP SMITH HI IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 8008

EXDIS

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SECDEF, CJCS INFO IMMEDIATE USDAO SAIGON

E. O. 11652: GDS 31 DEC 81 TAGS: MARR, CB, VS

SUBJECT: RVNAF ASSISTANCE TO FANK

- 1. EARLIER MESSAGES HAVE POINTED OUT THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MEKONG FOR CAMBODIA'S SURVIVAL, AND PREDICTED THAT CONTROL OF THE RIVER COULD WELL BE THE FIRST CASUALTY WHEN U.S. AIR SUPPORT IS WITHDRAWN.
- 2. THUS AN IMPORTANT VARIABLE IN HOLDING CAMBODIA IS WHETHER OR NOT THE GVN CAN BE PERSUADED TO PROVIDE:
- (A) CONVOY AIR COVER, INCLUDING FAC, FIGHTER, HELICOPTER GUNSHIP AND AC-119 SUPPORT; AND
- (B) NAVAL ESCORT AS FAR AS NEAK LOEUNG.
- 3. CLEARLY A SINE QUA NON IN CONVINCING THE GVN TO PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE THE WILLINGENSS AND ABILITY FO THE U.S. TO REPLACE EXPENDED AND LOST TIME ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS. AMBASSADOR MARTIN MAY WISH TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS.

 SECRET

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4. UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEX LEGAL, POLITICAL AND BUDGET-ARY ISSUES INVOLVED. HOWEVER, NO SINGLE ACTION THAT WE CAN NOW TAKE WOULD BUOY UP KHMER MORALE AS MUCH AS OBTAINING GVN PLEDGE TO HELP PROTECT THE MEKONG.

5. GIVEN EXPECTED GVN HESITATION, BELIEVE THE FIRST STEP OF FORMAL REQUEST BY LON NOL FOR RVNAF SUPPORT MUST BE MADE ASAP.

 $6.\ REQUEST$ THAT NECESSARY AUTHORITIES TO SEEK RVNAF SUPPORT BE GRANTED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE EARLY NEXT WEEK. ENDERS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004

Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: **Disposition Remarks:**

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Subject: RVNAF ASSISTANCE TO FANK TAGS: MARR, CB, US
To: STATE INFO CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

SAIGON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005